

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/728,575

Examiner

Ajay Vasudeva

Applicant(s)

KAMIO ET AL.

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 3/03/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Mark Alleman on 5/26/2006.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

(A) **In the Specification**

- On page 4, paragraph [0016], line 3, after "composed of plurality of foam structures", -- **or blocks** -- has been inserted.
- On page 9, paragraph [0038], line 7, after "50 is composed of three parts", -- , **or blocks**, -- has been inserted.
- On page 13, paragraph [0050], line 4, before "of the hull 2", "**portion**" has been changed to -- **wall** --.

(B) **In the Claims**

In claim 2

- On line 10, after "cause water to be discharged from", -- **within** -- has been inserted.
- On line 13, after "groove formed", "**on**" has been changed to -- **in** --.

Art Unit: 3617

In claim 4

- On line 3, after “the groove formed”, “**on**” has been changed to -- **in** --.

In claim 5

- On line 10, after “a plurality of foam”, “**structures**” has been changed to -- **blocks** --.

In claim 7

- On line 2, after “the plurality of foam”, “**structures**” has been changed to -- **blocks** --.

In claim 9

- On line 10, after “cause water to be discharged from”, -- **within** -- has been inserted.
- On line 12, after “first drain hole is formed in a”, “**rear end portion**” has been changed to -- **transversely extending rear end wall** --.
- On line 13, after “a groove formed”, “**on**” has been changed to -- **in** --.

In claim 10

- On line 3, after “the groove”, -- **is** -- has been inserted.

Art Unit: 3617

In claim 12

- On line 3, after “the groove formed”, “**on**” has been changed to -- **in** --.

In claim 14

- On line 4, after “a plurality of foam”, “**structures**” has been changed to -- **blocks** --.

In claim 15

- On line 2, after “the plurality of foam”, “**structures**” has been changed to -- **blocks** --.

In claim 17

- On line 9, after “a plurality of foam”, “**structures and being formed**” has been changed to -- **blocks and being preformed** --.
- On line 16, after “a plurality of foam”, “**structures are formed**” has been changed to -- **blocks are positioned within the rear space** --.
- On line 17, after “the pipes are provided”, “**and are arranged in a vertical direction of the body so as to be located on and under the pipes**” has been changed to -- , **the plurality of foam blocks being stacked vertically so as to be disposed above and below the pipes** --.

Art Unit: 3617

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ajay Vasudeva whose telephone number is (571) 272-6689. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 12:00 -- 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joe Morano can be reached on (571) 272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ajay Vasudeva
Examiner
Art Unit 3617


AJAY VASUDEVA
PATENT EXAMINER 5/27/06